

television 100 under control of the microcomputer 7. When a menu item is selected by the user, which menu item is selected is examined by the microcomputer 7 (S57, S61).

When the menu item for DVD playback is chosen, the

5 subsequent operations follow the same procedure as that of FIG. 3 (S58 through S60). When the menu item for requesting menus provided by the DVD is selected, the following operations follow the same procedure as that of FIG. 6 (S62 through S67).

10 Accordingly, the present invention enables a user of a digital apparatus like a digital television to conveniently request and execute various operations or functions of external digital devices that are connected to the digital apparatus without the direct control of or
15 access to the external digital devices.

The foregoing is provided only for the purpose of illustration and explanation of the preferred embodiments of the present invention, so changes, variations and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit
20 and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of menu-driven remote control of an external device that is connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

- 25 (a) displaying a menu image including menu items associated with functions or operations of said external device and menu items associated with a request of an image of the detailed menu provided by said external device; and
(b) requesting and receiving said image of the
30 detailed menu to said external device in response to the selection of a menu item associated with requesting the

image of the detailed menu, and displaying said image of the detailed menu.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said menu image is generated and displayed based on data of menu items stored in a memory of said audio/video apparatus.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said image of the detailed menu of said external device is displayed through decoding of data that are received through a digital interface from said external device.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said data received from said external device are in the form of image.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein when a menu item on said menu image displayed in said step (a) is selected, a predefined command corresponding to the selected menu item is transmitted to said external device.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein when a menu item on said image of the detailed menu displayed in said step (b) is selected by a pointing device, information about the current position of the cursor that is pointed by said pointing device is transmitted to said external device.

7. A method of menu-driven remote control of an external device that is connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a menu image including basic menu items associated with functions or operations of said external device and menu items associated with a request of an image of the detailed menu provided by said external device; and

(b) transmitting command data to said external device in response to the selection of a menu item associated with

functions or operations of said external device.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said basic menu items on said menu image displayed in said step (a) include menu items associated with playback, stop, pause, 5 fast forward, fast backward, skip forward, skip backward operations of an information-stored medium loaded in said external device.

9. A method of menu-driven remote control of an external device that is connected to an audio/video 10 apparatus, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating and displaying a menu image including menu items associated with functions or operations of said external device and menu items associated with a request of an image of the detailed menu provided by said external 15 device;

(b) transmitting command data to said external device in response to the selection of a menu item associated with a request of the image of the detailed menu;

(c) displaying the image of the detailed menu by 20 decoding data that said external device transmits in response to said command data; and

(d) transmitting to said external device information about the current position of the cursor on said image of the detailed menu, the cursor being pointed by a pointing 25 device that is used to select a particular menu item.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said image of the detailed menu is image data that are constructed based on data read out from an information-stored medium loaded in said external device.

30 11. A method according to claim 9, wherein a menu item on said menu image displayed in said step (a) over which said cursor is positioned is highlighted compared

with other menu items.

12. A method of menu-driven remote control of an external device that is connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) displaying a menu image including basic menu items associated with functions or operations of said external device and menu items associated with the request of an image of the detailed menu provided by said external device; and
- 10 (b) transmitting command data to said external device, in response to the selection of a menu item associated with functions or operations of said external device, to have said external device perform the desired function or operation, and requesting said image of the
- 15 detailed menu to said external device, in response to the selection of a menu item associated with the request of said image of the detailed menu, receiving and displaying said image of the detailed menu.